Dear Jim, My letter to Bud; his call 9/24/76

We had just come home from grocery shopping when the phone rang this afternoon. I was loaded. I asked Lil to answer. When she started chatting and gave me no clue that the call was for me I went out for more. It turned out to be Bud.

He thanked me for my letter. I told him I hopek he realizes I was sincere, seeking nothing personal and had written in his interest. He said that if he did not he would not be calling.

His words as I caught them surprised me. It is that "the investigation is off." Not that he is not part of it. That it no longer is.

To this he added only that "The boys are playing hardball now."

I had said that what Lane had done already presented problems. He did not follow on that in any way and did not want to amplify mfxxx or say anything else. Instead he asked about mxp stopping off Sunday on the way back from Deep Creek Lake. We agreed. He will call me before he leaves there.

He said several times that there were things he thinks I should know. I told him I had stayed away from it all. He repeated only that there were these things he wants me to know. I told him I'd like to.

That is the surprising it.

Before you can get this I'll know more. But what stunned me was not his saying he is taking my advice but that "the investigation is off." This and the very ambiguous bit about the hard-ball players is provocative.

If I could now get g frightened I guess I'd say frightening.

The only real possibility of the kind of hard-ball he talks about is official.

If it is this way I guess we also bear heavier responsibilities now. Meaning in the civil actions.

Sufficient unto the day?